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at Biltmore, North Carolina. During the disastrous floods of last July the Herbarium was largely inundated, suffering a loss of about three fourths of the botanical specimens and injuries to a considerable portion of the library. The uninjured specimens, chiefly phanerogams, number about 25,000, and will be of great value to the National Herbarium in augmenting its representation of southeastern plants. The collection contains, also, a large series of *Crataegus* specimens, including the types of many species described by Mr. C. D. Beadle, curator of the herbarium and an authority in this difficult genus. The library includes complete sets of several important botanical and horticultural publications, as well as many botanical works not hitherto in the National Museum.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A COMMITTEE of the Massachusetts Medical Society, consisting of Samuel B. Woodward, chairman, Dr. E. H. Bradford, Dr. Edward C. Streeter, Dr. Arthur N. Broughton, Dr. Peer P. Johnson and Dr. Philemon E. Truesdale, has been appointed to further the establishment of a department of military medicine, surgery and hygiene in the Harvard Medical School. It is proposed to raise an endowment fund of \$100,000.

THE financial board of the University of Cambridge has issued a report on the estimated income and expenditure for the year 1917. Although the common university fund, which is derived from assessments of colleges, is slightly greater than in 1913, the university chest, which is largely derived from capitation fees, examination fees, etc., has fallen from £53,400 to £23,900. The board estimates that the normal expenditure on the university chest will be £36,200, as against an estimated income of £20,400, leaving a deficiency of £15,800. Towards this they are able to provide the sum of £12,700, leaving a deficiency of £3,100.

THE archeological and ethnological collections of the late Dr. J. William White, of Philadelphia, have been presented to the University Museum by Mrs. White.

At the University of Virginia Dr. Theodore Hough, acting dean, has been made dean of the medical school; Dr. James A. Wardell, associate professor, has been appointed professor of pharmacology and materia medica, and Dr. John H. Neff, instructor, adjunct professor of genito urinary surgery.

At Harvard University Earnest A. Hooton has been appointed instructor in anthropology, Clarence E. Kelley and Harlan T. Stetson, instructors in astronomy, William E. Brown, instructor in public health administration, Raymond E. Merwin, associate in Central American archeology, and Willis A. Boughton, assistant director in the chemical laboratory.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR W. M. CARRUTH, of the department of mathematics at Hamilton College, has been promoted to a professorship.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

AN INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Referring to the proposal of an institute for the history of science and civilization, as outlined in a recent issue of SCIENCE,¹ the attention of all interested in this project is invited to the fact that the resources of precisely such an institution as has been proposed are indispensable to the full performance of its duties by the United States Patent Office, and to the fact that the resources of this office, inadequate as they now are, should in turn be at the disposal of the proposed institute, for the attainment of its separate purposes.

The suggestion is accordingly made that to the published list of important possible activities, there might most advantageously be added a sixth—the facilitation of prompt and reliable judgments upon all questions of novelty arising in connection with the administration of the patent laws, thereby aiding in the placing of the administration of such laws upon a secure scientific foundation. Surely the attainment of this additional purpose would be of sufficient public importance to deserve separate enumeration, and the furtherance of it

¹ SCIENCE, No. 1160, p. 284.